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AS OTHERS SEE US

"A Letter of Criticism" in the Service Bulletin, March 7 and 21 issue, should be read by every employee of the Forest Service. While it is written from the viewpoint of an Arizona cattleman, it can be translated into terms of all Forest Service public relations. It is a logical, unbiased summing up of the case. It presents both sides of the problem and offers constructive suggestions for its solution.

What the author has to say concerning the development of a "harmonious relationship" deserves the consideration of each one of us. It brings up again the question -- Are we trying to get the other fellow's point of view, or in our public contacts are we taking the attitude that the other fellow is out of step and needs converting to our views. If you are classifying some of the people on your Forest as "antagonistic", don't miss reading this article.

We especially liked the reference to "that important point of friendliness." It is largely a matter of understanding, and we should remember that the public, whom the Service represents, has its side in this matter. Perhaps one great fault of our public relations work in the past has been that we have never made it an intimate and personal problem in the life of the average citizen. It is this kind of personal, man-to-man public relations that should be emphasized. We believe this to be the most effective kind of PR work that the men in the field can do. We also believe that it will be a powerful influence in helping to solve many of our most vexing problems. The value of goodwill must be seized upon and followed up if the Service is to win and hold public

support. Our attitude largely determines the attitude which others take toward the work and program of the Service. There is great opportunity to further mould public opinion to the cause of forestry, and there is no greater factor in winning this objective than "that important point of friendliness."

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JOHN MUIR'S ANNIVERSARY

This year marks the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of John Muir, America's great conservationist, the man who declared: "Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul." The Forest Service which owes a debt of gratitude to John Muir is giving official observance to the centenary.

John Muir, who was born in Scotland on April 21, 1838, came to America at the age of eleven, settling in Wisconsin, which was still a frontier wilderness. In this setting he got to know intimately the trees and plants of the forest and developed a deep interest in all the things of nature. He had a consuming desire for knowledge and at an early age attracted the attention of Dr. Ezra S. Carr, Professor of Natural Sciences in the University of Wisconsin, who encouraged Muir to enter the University. Muir would conform to no prescribed curriculum, but pursued avidly the courses of his own choosing in literature, geology, chemistry and botany. While working in a machine shop in Indiana an accident to one of his eyes threatened him with blindness, and when he was recovered, he set out on an excursion to the Gulf of Mexico. An account of this is delightfully recorded in his "Thousand-Mile Walk to the Gulf." This journey took him through Georgia and Florida. In 1868 he went to California and for several years made his headquarters in the Yosemite Valley, and spent most of his time tramping over the rugged, forest-covered mountains of the Sierras.

In his wanderings he beheld an ever increasing devastation of public lands, and he launched his Great Crusade to save the forests. His first article definitely urging forest conservation, entitled "God's First Temples," was published in the Sacramento Record-Union on February 5, 1876. This was followed by many articles in leading periodicals written for the purpose of teaching men not to destroy but to cherish the good gifts of Nature. His brilliant writings commanded the attention of scientists and lovers of literature, and he became an acknowledged leader of the conservation movement. For years he was almost a lone champion of the forests, preaching earnestly the gospel of conservation, and warning the people that forest destruction meant droughts, floods, soil erosion and the ruin of agriculture. That this gospel at length became law and usage, we owe in large measure to the pioneering vision and courage of John Muir. Fitting indeed it is that the centennial of his birth and the fruitfulness of his long career be celebrated throughout the nation.

This wise old man became a great friend of Theodore Roosevelt, who sought him out to learn what he knew about tree destruction and land frauds and what he thought should be done about them. He was

probably the greatest influencing factor in the aggressive conservation policy which Theodore Roosevelt adopted. The creation of the U. S. Forest Service in 1905 meant the realization of much that John Muir had advocated. Many honors came to Muir, but he remained as Theodore Roosevelt said of him "a perfectly natural man". To the end, he continued his crusade on the public's duty in handling our resources wisely and so using the country as to "pass it on to future generations undiminished in richness and beauty."

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A COMPLETE ABSTRACT
(OR, WHY OUR ABSTRACTORS KEEP FROM GROWING OLD)

A certain party contracted to buy a large tract of land situated in Louisiana, subject to abstract showing good title. The abstract of title was turned over to the purchaser's lawyer for examination. After going over the title, the lawyer pronounced it good as far back as it went, but requested a record dating back further than the complete abstract that was furnished. Herewith is the reply to his request:

Dear Sir:

There are no records or archives available which concern the title to the above-described land any further back than the United States Government.

However, I believe from a historical standpoint, I can enlighten you as to the title in such a way that the objections you have pointed out will be waived.

The land was acquired by the United States Government in 1803 by purchase from France under what we now refer to as the Louisiana Purchase. France acquired possession of the land by conquest as a result of a successful war with Spain. Spain acquired possession of the land by virtue of the fact that a young man in her service by the name of Christopher Columbus on the 12th day of October, 1492, discovered it and claimed it for Spain. Columbus got his authority for making the aforesaid voyage and discovery from Ferdinand and Isabella, the King and Queen of Spain. Ferdinand and Isabella got their authority for sponsoring the voyage from the Pope of Rome. The Pope of Rome got his authority by virtue of the fact that he said he was the Vicar of Christ on Earth. Christ got his authority by the fact that he was the Son of God and GOD CREATED THE EARTH.

-- Allegheny News Letter

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CHEER UP !

When things seem twisted and out of joint
Don't get discouraged and quit the game;
The corkscrew never goes straight to the point
But it gets there just the same.

FOREST SERVICE CREDIT UNION
SAVE -- SAVE TO BORROW -- BORROW TO SAVE

The Atlanta Forest Service Employees' Federal Credit Union, now in its third year, was established for the benefit of the employees of the Atlanta Regional Office. It is one of approximately 2,700 Federal Credit Unions in the United States, organized as a cooperative association of persons working for each other's financial betterment. The present membership numbers only 50 percent of the Regional Office personnel, which indicates that many of our fellow workers are not taking advantage of the opportunities created by the Credit Union.

This Credit Union offers a safe place to save money at a higher rate of interest than ordinarily obtained at savings banks, and offers an opportunity to borrow at a lower rate of interest than charged by so-called loan sharks. Loans are made to members on the basis of 1 percent per month on the unpaid balances.

The Atlanta Forest Service Employees' Federal Credit Union has a total of some six thousand dollars on deposit. Last year 75 loans were made without a single loss. A 6 percent dividend was paid on savings, after setting aside 20 percent of the gross income for reserve plus an additional amount to be held indefinitely as a fund to prevent future dividends from falling below 6 percent, should it be necessary to use it.

Loan insurance is carried to cover the balance on a loan in the event the borrower dies or becomes totally and permanently disabled, eliminating the necessity of collection from the widow, inadequate estates, co-signers or other collateral.

An additional feature provided is a plan of insurance which covers each member's life to the amount of his share holdings at the end of each calendar month not to exceed a maximum of \$1,000.00. It means that if you have \$730.00 to your credit, the insurance will automatically increase your holdings to \$1460.00 upon your death.

The Credit Union is taking every measure to increase, protect and assure its members of maximum safety in the handling of their funds. The books are audited quarterly by the Auditing Committee, and annually by an auditor from the Washington office of the Farm Credit Administration.

There is a movement on foot at present to extend the scope of the Atlanta Forest Service Employees' Federal Credit Union to cover the whole area included within Region 8 and thus serve all employees of this branch of the Forest Service. Mr. Herms or any member of the Board of Directors will be glad to give further information to those interested in a plan of systematic savings.

-- DeFord Smith, Chairman,
Forest Service Credit Union

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ATTENTION! FIRE CONTROL COMMITTEE

Junior Forester Brooke Davis has picked up a newly coined word which bids fair to become exceedingly popular in fire control vernacular. Davis made the discovery while making visible area maps on a neighboring lookout in Georgia and, as the word had to do with his particular line of work, he was visibly impressed with it. The lookout in question repeatedly referred to the visible distance as "distability". This, say we, is a concise and descriptive term for visible distance. You've got something there, Chattahoochee.

-- E. W. Renshaw, Cherokee National Forest

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EAST TEXAS GIVES INCREASED SUPPORT TO
FOREST FIRE PROTECTION

Increased support from the East Texas public was a big factor in the progress made by the Texas Forest Service during 1937, Director Siecke reports.

Over 3,200 civilians gratuitously assisted the State personnel in fighting forest fires. If the State had had to pay for these services Mr. Siecke estimates the cost would have been around \$6,000. In addition 1,500 volunteer forest fire guards signed agreements to help prevent and fight fires.

The State protected approximately 8 1/4 million acres of forest land during 1937 at an average cost of 1 1/2 cents per acre, and on which the area burned was held to 1.56 percent.

-- Lillian B. King, Regional Office

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UNOFFICIAL OBSERVATIONS OF AN OFFICIAL OBSERVER

One sees some queer things while roamin' around -- f'r instance:

A "College Inn" where all the waiters were college boys, all the customers college girls, top price 35¢ and diners regaled by a 10-piece swing-band orchestra.

A hard-boiled inspector befuddling an innocent C.C.C. boy by citing Safety Regulation infractions whilst he (the inspector) stood with lighted cigarette beneath a "NO SMOKING" sign. (This in an S.C.S. Camp where the inspector had no business and no authority.)

A big black boy roller skating the Big Apple down a U. S. Highway rendering "Bei Mir bist du schoen" on a mouth organ.

A high-ranking Forest official frantically searching at every big-town stop for a hair-raising dime detective magazine and grumbling because "Captain Satan" was a day late on the news stands.

A Forest ranger planning for a field trip, filling his pockets with "Imported Manilas" from a box which formerly held 200 and cost \$1.98 with duty.

Bowling along around curves in a government Ford at 60 m.p.h. while the driver nonchalantly adjusts the radio!! Ever try it? Well,dont!

A real meal at a Ranger's Headquarters town all or any part available for the same price--take a look--steak, sausage, lamb patties, baked eggs, chicken salad, fried chicken, chicken and rice, green peas, string beans, french fried potatoes, candied yams, tomato salad, baked apples, spiced apples, cole slaw, stuffed peach, hominy, cranberry sauce, hot biscuits, orange bread, doughnuts, cake, cookies, coffee, tea, iced tea, sweetmilk, buttermilk.

Five Forest Service uniforms crowded into one Forest Service Ford--surely, a beauteous sight after three days travel.

An esthetic telephone line bordering a main highway, comprised of unbarked crooked trees with forked branches supporting a crossarm.

An out-of-state Forest officer with a pocket full of aluminum tax tokens, net weight 5 pounds, net monetary value 1 1/2 cents.

-- George Root, Regional Office

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PLANTING IN REGION 8

Planting for all of the forests in Region 8 is now complete for the current season and reports indicate a total area, exclusive of Puerto Rico, of 50,116 acres with a total of 44,291,000 trees used. Work started in November in the Coastal Plains Forests and was finished in March in the Appalachians. The main species used were longleaf pine (24,608M), slash pine (15,836M), and shortleaf pine (2,707M) with small amounts of loblolly, white pine, black locust, red spruce and white oak. The major portion of the planting was done in Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas. Of the total acreage, 40% was in Mississippi, 28% in Louisiana and 20% in Texas. Areas were also planted in Alabama, Arkansas, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Tennessee. Planting in Alabama increased from 898 acres in 1937 to 3,079 acres during the current year. The area planted in 1938 is approximately 5,000 acres less than in 1937 with a decrease in number of trees to the amount of 12,357,000. This year's planting was on land having a large percent of natural reproduction which accounts for the decrease in stock used.

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A bee's sting is one thirty-second of an inch long. The other two feet is imagination.

DR. I. T. HAIG HEADS FOREST RESEARCH DIVISION

Mr. Silcox has announced the appointment of Dr. Irvine T. Haig as chief of the Division of Silvics, one of the oldest and most important of the research divisions of the U. S. Forest Service. Dr. Haig has been acting head of the Division for the past year. Dr. Haig has a broad background of technical training and experience. He received his B.S. degree from Penn State and his Master's and doctorate from Yale. He has had fifteen years' experience on various assignments in the Forest Service in Washington and the field and is an outstanding investigator in the field of silviculture.

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FOREST NEWS

FLORIDA

A sale of 208,000 board feet of slash pine sawtimber for the excellent price of \$15.30 per M has recently been negotiated on the Ocala. This timber is an isolated block bordering Buck Lake in the southeastern portion of the forest. In addition to the stumpage price bid, this sale is of interest because it is the second one to be made on the Ocala, which is one of the oldest forests in the Region. This forest is now in its thirtieth year. This sale heralds the beginning of a timber sale business on the Ocala. The sale of sand pine pulpwood to the mills at Jacksonville and Fernandina is anticipated in the near future.

Throughout most of the East thunderstorms are a welcome sight and sound to the rangers and their protective organizations. With a storm in the offing the ranger may cast aside worldly cares for the nonce and relax for a snooze, or bedeck himself in gaudy raiment and hie away to the movie. But not in Florida, for here a display of celestial pyrotechnics finds the ranger with an eye toward the thunderhead and an ear to the telephone. Lightning fire season usually begins in April. This year the season is off to an early start with the first lightning fire occurring on the Apalachicola at 5 p.m. on March 24. Lightning struck a cypress tree and the resultant fire spread rapidly. An area of three acres burned over before the fire was corraled.

-- Frank A. Albert, Forest Supervisor

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CHEROKEE

During the month of March a new game area was established on the Cherokee in cooperation with the Tennessee State Game Department. It is known as the Ocoee Game Unit, and is bounded roughly by the Sheeds Creek-Sylco Road, Parksville Lake and Ocoee River, Licklog Ridge, and the Georgia-Tennessee State Line. The new Unit surrounds Cherokee Game Refuge No. 1, better known as the Big Frog Refuge. The State of Tennessee, in accordance with the agreement, has furnished an experienced Game Protector who will assist Federal Warden Jerry Lethcoe in protecting the entire area, including the Federal Refuge.

An enthusiastic C.C.C. celebration was held at Camp Tennessee F-3, Archville, commemorating the fifth anniversary of the C.C.C. The outstanding feature of this celebration as far as the local people were concerned was the fox hound bench show and the fox chase. This was the second year the event has been held and it threatens to become an annual affair. "Everybody and his brother" were there, and it was observed that the Ranger and his assistant spent an exceedingly busy day shaking hands, kissing babies, and patting fox hounds on the head. It is believed the affair was an outstanding example of good PR work on the part of the district and camp personnel.

-- P.F.W. Prater, Forest Supervisor

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OZARK

Two shortleaf pine sales were awarded to successful bidders March 29, 1938. Stumpage prices of \$7.15 and \$8.15 per MBF were secured for a total cut of 605,000 B.F. In addition, 15 cents per MBF cut will be deposited in the cooperative stand betterment fund.

Spring planting terminated April 1. Approximately 1,200 acres were planted with 1,046 M of shortleaf pine 1-0, 165 M shortleaf pine 1-1, and 25 M of black and honey locusts, black walnut, white oak and Bois D'arc, all 1-0. 500 M shortleaf pine 1-0 were transplanted in the Nursery. In addition shipments were made to other National Forests; a total of 600 M shortleaf pine 1-0 and 1-1, plus 105 M of hardwoods 1-0 to the Mississippi; and 116 M of 1-0 and 1-1 shortleaf pine to the Ouachita. Extensive fencing against grazing will be undertaken on the Ozark this year to protect our planting investment.

-- H. R. Koen, Forest Supervisor

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MISSISSIPPI

Much publicity has attended the cutting of the "Lonesome Pine" which stood for nearly 250 years in the forks of Flint and Red Creeks, near the Biloxi Ranger District of the DeSoto National Forest. There are three sections of this unusual pine tree at the Ranger's office in Gulfport. One section 8 inches thick was taken from the stump and is $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet in diameter; another was taken from a log cut 60 feet from the ground and is $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet in diameter; the third section is a limb which was cut 70 feet from the ground and has a diameter of almost 2 feet. Approximately 28,000 people have seen these sections which were exhibited in parades and fairs in and near the Biloxi Ranger District.

The most surprising evidence of this widespread publicity came in the form of a letter from the Charles Sumner Junior High School in New York City. An instructor in the school wrote the following: "Reading in the paper about the Ancient Pine Tree which was cut down at the forks of Flint and Red Creeks recently, I wonder if it would be possible for you to send us a piece of this tree for our museum. I am quite sure that it would be of great interest to the pupils who are located in the lower east side of this city and where the people are not in a position to go travelling and see these wonderful things."

News gets around, doesn't it?

-- W. W. Bergoffen, District Forest Ranger

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PISGAH

During February robins, millions in number, selected the lower Uharie Valley for a "roost." They located their main "roost" in Montgomery County, using the pine thickets over an area about one-half mile wide by about one mile in length.

There is hardly a leaf in the woods for miles in this section that some robin has not turned over at least twice in his search for insects. One would think turkey or wild hog were in abundance from the appearance of the woods floor.

About a half hour before dusk the robins would return from their foraging trips. To a person located near the "roost" at this time of day the air was filled with black dots as far as the eye could see. Just at dark the robins worked into the "roost", crowding close together, until each branch of every tree from the ground up was lined with birds. The small dead branches broke off under their weight. The noise of their wings, if the birds were disturbed, can hardly be described. It was like a mighty wind.

Of course, this was an excellent opportunity for illegal hunters. Armed with flashlights, "tow" sacks, and in some instances clubs (no other weapons were necessary), the robin hunters raided the "roost." The law abiding citizens in the neighborhood reported these raids to the County Game Warden, the Forest Service authorities, and the Biological Survey. A posse consisting of a State Highway Patrolman, a Deputy Sheriff, the County Game Warden, two Special Deputies, and the Acting District Ranger patrolled the area; and on the morning of February 27 at 3 a.m. five hunters were apprehended with 112 robins in their possession. These men were placed in the Montgomery County jail. On this same date Mr. Birsch of the Biological Survey arrived and on February 28 the robin hunters were taken before the U. S. Commissioner and required to post a bond of \$500.00 each.

Federal Judge Hayes at Rockingham, N. C. fined three violaters \$75.00 each; two boys were fined \$50.00 each, and all five were put on probation. One violater who admitted that he had killed his robins by biting off their heads (the usual method was to ring their necks) had a difficult time avoiding a ninety-day sentence in addition to his fine. Only a few robins are left in the "roost." Since the apprehension of the five hunters, however, no one has molested the birds.

-- John B. Fortin, Acting District Ranger

A PRECOCIOUS CONSERVATIONIST

(The quoted letter was recently received by the office of I & E, being respectfully referred for acknowledgment and consideration by Marvin H. McIntyre, Secretary to the President:)

"Dear Mr. President:

Will you please do something about people burning forests with beautiful dogwood trees in them? I have seen beautiful forests burned to the ground. Please do something about it.

Sincerely yours,

Carolyn Lewis (8 years old)"

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Russell E. Rea of the Florida Forests has been promoted to district ranger on the Wambaw District of the South Carolina.

Jr. Forester Ernest R. DeSilvia of the Florida Forests has been assigned to the Choctawhatchee District as acting district ranger.

Doris J. Bolian of the Mississippi Forests has been promoted to head up the miscellaneous section.

The following transfers have recently been effected; District Ranger Howard A. Snyder from Florida to Unaka District of Cherokee; Samuel M. Shanklin from regional office to South Carolina Forests as engineering staff assistant; Waldo G. Smith of Mississippi Forests from Leaf River District to supervisor's office; Norman B. Alter from Alabama Forests to supervisor's office of the Ozark; Lowell F. Baker of Mississippi Forests from the supervisor's office to Holly Springs District; Wilhelm M. Beckert from Ozark to Pisgah; Walter J. Clark from Texas Forests to Catahoula District of Kisatchie; Seaborn J. Johnson from Cherokee to supervisor's office of Ouachita; Maurice C. Bonney from Ozark to Black Warrior District of Alabama as assistant ranger; Fred G. Ames of Ozark from Bayou District to Sylamore District as acting ranger; Wm. H. Warriner of the Mississippi from Chickasawhay District to supervisor's office; Orion J. Peavy of the Alabama from Oakmulgee District to Talladega District as assistant ranger; Abstractors Chas. T. Kingsbury and W. Vol Jones from Mississippi to Ozark; Chas. E. Holbrook of the Alabama from Oakmulgee District to the supervisor's office; Earl R. Neff from Enoree District to supervisor's office, South Carolina; Claude O. Gillion of the South Carolina from Mountain to Enoree District; Gus Peters of the Ouachita to Arkansas State at Little Rock.

The following men have been transferred to Region 5 on fire control planning - Archer D. Smith of the South Carolina; Chas. R. Crawford and Roland H. Ferguson of the Kisatchie; and Richard F. Droege of Florida State.

Recent appointments include John W. Sherill and Wm. E. Fowler on the Pisgah; Jasper J. Johnson and E. Hayne Hunter on the Cherokee; Walter Edge on the Chattahoochee; Ezra Constance on the Nantahala; and Herbert L. Simpson on the Alabama.

The following furloughed junior foresters were recently transferred to the Prairie States Project - Claude S. Asp of the Mississippi; Therone I. Faris and Roger H. Gee of the Chattahoochee; Wm. J. Grady of the Alabama; Victor A. Griswold, Reginald Reynolds and Wm. G. Kunkle of the Cherokee; Edward W. Harden of the TVA; and Chas. G. Royer of the Nantahala.

Wm. E. Cooper, on furlough from Texas, has been transferred to the Soil Conservation Service at Aiken, S. C.

Edward McCarsen of the Pisgah and Julian W. Leggett of the Mississippi have been furloughed.

Elizabeth B. Allison of the Ozark has resigned.

THE LOOKOUT

Regional Forester Kircher recently spent two weeks in the field with Messrs. Rachford, Irwin and Camp of the Washington Office and representatives of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and Farm Security Administration reviewing the work on the resettlement projects in Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Arkansas. They also visited the Long Cane and Enoree Purchase Units.

Mr. Kircher attended the Joint Conservation Conference of the Southern Pine Association in New Orleans on March 23 and 24.

Associate Regional Forester Stabler is spending several weeks in Arkansas.

Personnel Officer Riebold has just returned from the Washington Office where he attended a Personnel Conference.

Fred G. Miller of the Division of Personnel Management, Washington Office, and Mr. Riebold are visiting the various forestry schools in the Region for the purpose of discussing curricula, the future placement of forestry students and graduates in Forest Service work, as well as to meet and talk with students concerning the work of the Service.

Wm. R. Barbour has recently returned from the Washington Office where he has been on detail.

The C.C.C. painting by Harry Rossoll, artist for the Southern Region, which commemorated the Fifth Anniversary of the C.C.C., was displayed at the C.C.C. ball at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D. C., which was attended by many notables including Mrs. Roosevelt and Director Fechner. C.C.C. camps who desire to have pictures of this painting reproduced in their local papers may obtain newspaper mats from the Regional Office.

Recent visitors to the Regional Office were: George Duncan, Equipment Engineer; Judge Harley Langdale, President of American Turpentine Farmers Association, Valdosta, Ga.; A. E. Wackerman, Industrial Engineer, S.A.L., Norfolk, Va.; Robert Campbell, Cedartown, Ga.; Poole Maynard, Industrial Engineer, Atlanta, Ga., and Dean Chapman of the College of Agriculture, Athens, Ga.

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Through all the wonderful, eventful centuries since Christ's time - and long before that - God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches, and a thousand straining, leveling tempests and floods; but he cannot save them from fools - only Uncle Sam can do that.

-- John Muir

